

LONG ISLAND FORUM



The Hollyhocks, Southampton

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**THE
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FORUM**

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PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor

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Huden, Julian Denton Smith,
Roy E. Lott, Chester G. Osborne.

Southampton's Oldest Home

The Hollyhocks, oldest dwelling
in the village of Southampton and
among the oldest on Long Island,
was built the year that Horse Mill
lane, now South Main street on
which it stands, was laid out and
homesites allotted. Up to that
time since June 12, 1640 when the
first settlers arrived, they had
dwelt at Olde-Town, little less
than a mile away and had organ-
ized the town there.

The Hollyhocks, which was built
by a Thomas Halsey not later than
1660 is being purchased by the
Southampton Colonial Society with
the aid of the Village Improve-
ment Association and individual
subscribers, from the owner, John
T. Wainwright, at a cost of \$20,000.
According to William K. Dunwell,
president of the Colonial Society,
an additional \$10,000 will be needed
for restoration work.

The venerable old building was
somewhat enlarged and renovated
in 1910, according to Samuel G.
Werner of Southampton, during
the ownership of the late Mrs.
Clement, the work being super-
vised by her uncle, Charles Hamil-
ton, architect for the Equitable
Life building, New York City's
first skyscraper. Just when the
year "1645" was painted on the
front porch of "The Hollyhocks",
and by whom, is not known.

"In Old Southampton", by the
late Abigail Fithian Halsey, pub-
lished in 1940, it is stated that "The
house of Thomas Halsey Jr., built
about 1660, still stands, and, known
as the Hollyhocks, is the oldest
house in the village." The author
also further refers to "the home
of Thomas Halsey, where in 1649
Phoebe, his wife, was surprised
and murdered by Pequot Indians
intent on stirring up trouble with
the whites". These Indians, how-
ever, "were taken to Connecticut
by Wyandanch and tried by the
white man's law. This murder

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Commander Meade, U. S. N.

Roy E. Lott

DURING the Civil War, the North, with its greater maritime resources, held a decided advantage over the South. A fleet which permitted control of the coast; long range guns, and a navy personnel trained to properly handle these things, enabled the Union to eventually subdue the Confederacy.

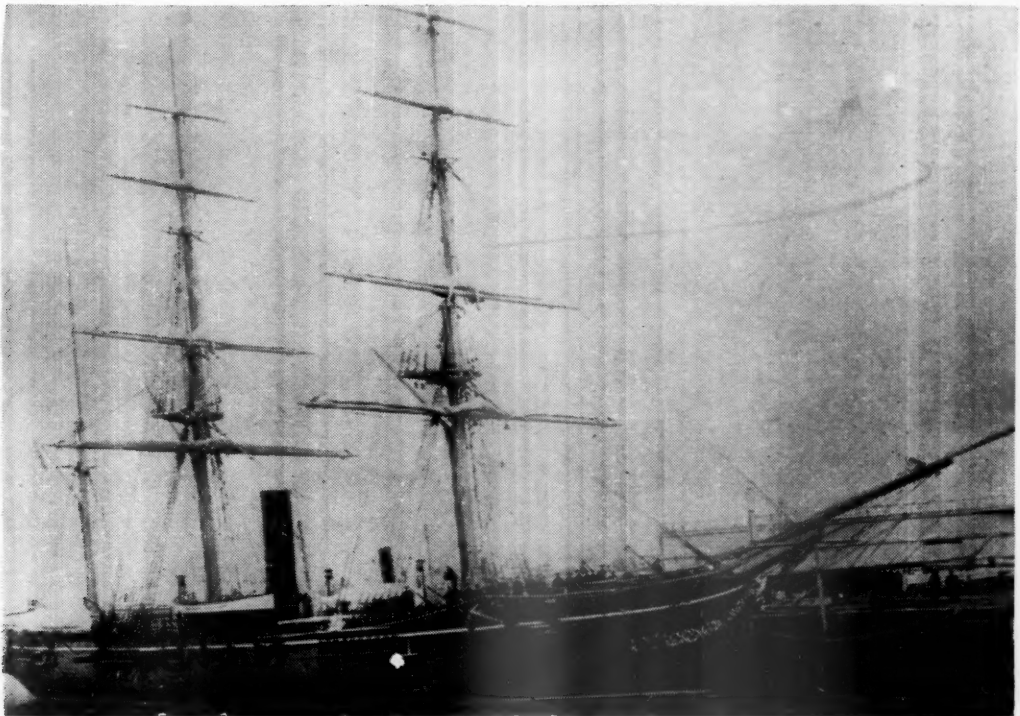
From the Virginia coast to Mexico a blockade was established and the ships which performed this task were, in a large measure, driven by steam which was just coming into general use. Those times, as always, produced some very able leaders, among them men from Long Island. One such was Admiral Hiram Paulding, a resident of Huntington, who had much to do with the building and launching of the Monitor. He was in charge of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, building that "mystery" ship, and had he not ignored a 'stop-work' order, it would never have been completed.

Another hero of the Civil War was Richard W. Meade, of whom very little has been told. Reared on the waters of Huntington Harbor where his people owned a farm and were active in civic and church matters, he early became an outstanding seaman. When the Presbyterians sought to establish a chapel at the harbor area, which was a mile from the parent church, the Meade family donated a small building and land for the purpose. The building, which had been used to house the Meade's winter grain, still stands, now enlarged and used as a residence.

On October 2nd, 1850, Richard Meade was made a midshipman in the U. S. Navy; a Master on January 22, 1858, and July 16, 1858, a Lt. Commander. He married Rebecca Paulding, daughter of Hiram Paulding who had assumed the task of ringing the bell on Sundays in the little Chapel at Hunt-

ington Harbor. As the war progressed, Richard Meade made a fine record and in February of 1863 was reported as supporting the blockade of Charleston. After the war the call of the waves still dominated Meade's career and we find the following item in a local newspaper of June 27, 1879:

"We are pleased to learn that the U. S. Steamer Vandalia, eight guns, Comm. R. W. Meade, will visit Huntington Harbor on next Saturday, and will probably remain here for ten days; giving us a grand national salute on Independence Day. This is the first time that our harbor has been visited by a Man-of-War of 1812. Although Comm. Meade does not visit our port on any impressment mission, yet we hope the thunder of his guns will so impress some of the previously unterrified, that they will cease to do evil and mend the error of their ways. The Vandalia is 2600 tons burthen with a crew of 230 men and officers. Some of



Meade's Warship "Vandalia"

our citizens, wishing to entertain the Commander at this place, his home, are arranging to give him and his officers a suitable reception at some time during his stay".

Commander Meade had come home, the proud commander of a mighty naval vessel. While the Vandalia lay at anchor here, the gunners aboard practiced by firing at an imposing rock on the west side of the bay, which to this day is known as Target Rock, and some of the balls fired then have since been found on the upland behind that huge stone.

Of course fresh water for the crew was a necessity, and a task force was delegated to go ashore to procure it. The sailors located a spring on the shoreline, just south of Commander Meade's home, from which they drew the needed water, and made many trips in fulfillment of the task. Very likely, fewer trips would have sufficed but as three pretty girls lived within a few hundred feet of the spring, the work of ferrying water to the ship became a pleasant one. On the last and parting trip to the spring, the sailors gave their boat's colors to the girls as a token of remembrance. They had no way of knowing, however, that that flag with 13 stars would eventually be framed, labeled and hung on the wall of the D. A. R. Home, on Nassau Avenue, Huntington, where it may be seen and appreciated as a constant reminder of one of Long Island's sons, who brought fame to the place of his birth.

Melborne Is Right

"Colonial Long Island" (March Forum) is splendid. Islip town being founded in 1710 is new to me and information I needed.

I note one error. Leisler's son-in-law was Jacob Melborne or Mellbourne (not Mansfield). He married Mary Leisler.

I never knew that J. C. Symmes (father-in-law of President William Henry Harrison) was born in Riverhead town. He left for the west from Morristown, N. J. (after moving there from Riverhead).

Elizabeth Teed, East Orange, N. J.

I enjoyed very much your March issue, particularly the articles and photos relative to some of the colonial homes.

Francis B. Garvey, Babylon.

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Whelks and Moon Snails

OF all the unbelievable things on our beach the identity of the egg cases of the whelk and the moon snail take the prize. The whelk egg cases look for all the world like the backbone of some legless animal—a series of parchment-like discs strung along with flat side to flat side. The moon snail egg cases resemble the bottom inch of a "plumber's helper" or a rubbery washer for some large pump—a circular and an open S in cross section.

The string of parchment-like discs can be assigned to the whelk by the contents of the discs. Invariably something rattles in a few of the capsules. It will turn out to be a tiny little shell, a wonderfully small edition of a conch shell and correct to the minutest detail, an exact copy of its parent, the most conch-like shell on our beach—the whelk.

There is absolutely nothing about the egg case of the moon snail to suggest the intimate association of the two. The shell of the moon snail is another of the curling forms found on our beach. It is round and becomes the size of a tennis ball or a base ball. It has a flat, reddish-brown, waxy cover that fits snugly over the opening when the mollusk has drawn into the shell. Discarded covers are frequently found high up on the beach where the last wave has left them.

A collar is another description of the moon snail egg case. An engineer or draftsman would surely call it that. It is made of mucus rolled back on to the shell and flanged, thus giving the collar shape. The eggs are attached to the under surface and the whole thing cast off. It quickly becomes coated with grains of sand. Leathery, colorless pieces of collars are often found along the shore. Each piece has the characteristic open S cross section.

Most of the moon snail shells on the beach hold no snails. We have to go around to the bay to find them. Even there we seldom see the snail because it is roaming around in the bottom anywhere down to a foot. It is hunting mol-

Julian Denton Smith

lusk for food. Its smooth and rounded shell makes easy advance as the snail digs with its enormous foot. A slowly moving hump of sand can indicate the location of a moon snail.

Upon finding a clam the moon snail holds the animal with the foot and drills a hole through the shell, whereupon it absorbs the clam. Moon snails are tremendous eaters—the young consume almost their own weight in clams every two weeks.

On the ocean front we find a crab living in the shell of a moon snail, its legs and feet showing at the opening. This is the hermit crab and he drags the "house" around with him. In so doing he is protecting his frail abdomen which is encased in very thin skin. A hermit crab will outgrow a "house" from time to time. Then he hunts a new shell and moves from one to the other in almost the twinkling of an eye lest some bird dine on him during that exposed moment.

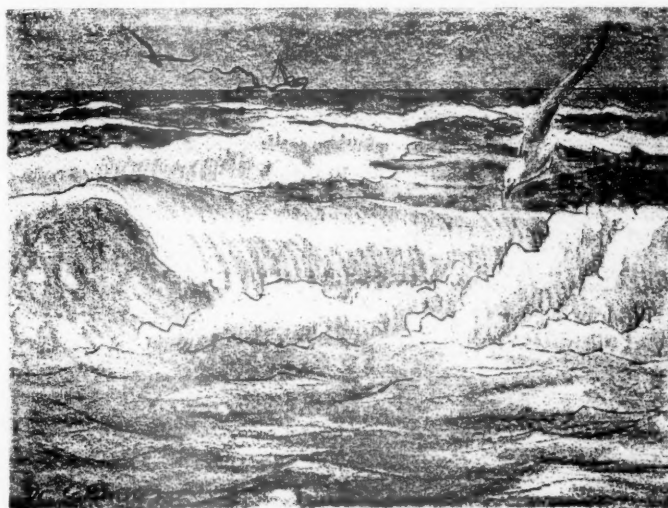
A friend of mine tells of seeing a hermit locate a suitable new shell for a "house" only to discover the

moon snail still in occupancy. My friend says he saw the crab yank, pull, haul and tear the snail out, back himself into the emptied shell and race off with it. Now my friend is a sober, honest, reliable person but I would like to know just what he actually did see!

Moon snails and whelks are without eyes. The former comes upon its prey in moving through the sands below the bottom of the bay. Whelks move around on top of the bottom or on exposed sand in their search for food. The whelks do not go beneath the sand as do the moon snails, their conch-like shells making such activity difficult.

The whelks rely on a wonderful, specialized sense of taste to point the way to food. This taste sense can pick up the invisible stream from the feeding apparatus of clams. The trail may lead to a soft clam, a razor clam, or a hard clam—it makes no difference to the whelk. He takes the clam in his big foot and bangs his own shell against the clam until the clam shell is cracked and broken. He then settles down to the feast.

All is not in favor of the whelk and the moon snail for they have two notorious enemies. Lurking in



Long Island Surf
Sketched and Etched by Joseph Di Gemma

all sorts of hide-a-ways in the water are stone crabs. These are large, husky crabs of a purplish color and with powerful, crushing claws. The claws can grab a whelk and break off pieces of the thick shell and finally reach the animal no matter how far into the coiled shell he has been able to retire. The same technique is used on the moon snail. Often a heap of broken whelk shells is found before the home site of a stone crab.

The second enemy of the whelk and moon snail arrives on wing. It is the seagull. Anyone who drives to Jones Beach knows how this trick is pulled for there are remains of whelk and moon snail shells all along the parkway. Seagulls' claws are not strong enough to crush the shells of these two creatures but they are strong enough to hold on while the bird takes to the air. This procedure is certainly an art passed on from one generation of gulls to the next. Carrying the shelled animal aloft the gull seeks a paved road, hard beach sand or a roof top and drops it. He follows the drop and is beside the shattered shell about as quickly as it breaks. He will eat everything but the pieces of shell.

May I inject an aside at this point. I hate to have to pick up a crab for I am never sure my fingers are far enough in back that his big claws cannot anchor on them. I am never happy when there is a loose, live crab scurrying around the bottom of a rowboat I am in. So I marvel at the seagull's ability to find a crab, corner it, grab it in

his bill, fly off with it, and drop it on a roadway—all without the crab being able to catch hold of the gull with those two extremely agile front claws.

The design and construction of the whelk and moon snail shells bring them safely through the pounding of the surf which is destructive to most shells. The circular exterior and the central support system tend to equalize the pressures and dissipate strains. It means that these creatures in their formidable housing can survive forces which destroy weaker structures.

In June and July when the egg cases of the whelk (discs strung together) and the moon snail (collars) appear on our beach, let's be curious about them. Nature again overdoes herself in the production of young. There will be thousands of baby whelks but probably not more than a hundred in ratio will mature. It would be remarkable beyond words to come upon the first microscopic shell of the moon snail.

Capt. Eliphalet Halsey

We were very interested some time back in the article on whaling, which mentioned Capt. Eliphalet Halsey and the ship Argonaut. We have the oil painted portrait of Capt. Eliphalet who was my father's grandfather. We also have his watch which winds with a key.

We find the Forum very interesting. Before that article we had not known who owned the fine ship Argonaut.

Mrs. H. S. Topping, Wainscott.

Why not a list of places on the island named from families, such as Smithtown, Terryville, Swezeytown, Douglaston, Remsenburg, Bellport and Thompson's Station (now no more)? Miss Anna Pascoe, Levittown.

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State Parks of Suffolk

BETHPAGE STATE PARK, located about two miles north of the Southern State Parkway near Farmingdale offers five of the finest 18-hole golf courses on Long Island. Known as the Yellow, Blue, Red, Black and Green, these courses are on a par with any championship course in the country. All five courses are hilly, with well-groomed fairways and greens but each has its distinctive features.

The attractive clubhouse of Long Island Colonial design serving all five golf courses contains locker and shower rooms for men and women, golf pro shop, game room, a cocktail lounge, dining porch and grill. The park contains 1529 acres of fields and beautiful rolling woodlands devoted to recreation.

For the rider there are well equipped livery stables, eleven miles of scenic bridle paths and polo field. From May to November exciting polo games may be witnessed on Sunday afternoons. Picnic area, playfield and well kept tennis courts are also available. In winter when weather conditions permit, Bethpage Park becomes a winter sports mecca with skiing and sleighing on its numerous slopes.

BAYARD CUTTING ARBORETUM is located in the Great River Section of East Islip near Heckscher State Park. The Arboretum was a gift to the State of New York by Olivia B. James and her mother, Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, to bring about a greater appreciation and understanding of the importance of informal planting and to serve as a place of rest and pleasure for those who delight in outdoor beauty. The Arboretum contains many foreign fir, spruce and other coniferous evergreens, some of which are the only growing specimens to be found in this section of the country. Refreshments may be obtained in the administration building.

SUNKEN MEADOW STATE PARK on Long Island Sound, near the Village of Kings Park, provides modern bathing facilities, picnic areas, playgrounds, a cafeteria and refreshment stands.

The Sunken Meadow bathing beach on Long Island Sound is one of the safest and most attractive bathing beaches on Long Island. A modern bathhouse contains ac-

Chester R. Blakelock

commodations for about 2,700 bathers. More than 2000 lineal feet of additional boardwalk has recently been completed and the protected bathing beach area and parking fields have been more than doubled. The upland wooded section of the park overlooking the Sound provides some unusually attractive picnic areas fully equipped with fireplaces, picnic tables, benches, comfort stations, drinking fountains and refreshment stands. This park is the northerly terminus of the new Sunken Meadow State Parkway.

HECKSCHER STATE PARK at East Islip has over three miles of frontage on Great South Bay along which its two bathing areas are located. The westerly area is equipped for use by organized picnics and outings; the easterly area complete with modern bathhouse, games area and playground, provides excellent facilities for general use. Three large wooded picnic areas with fireplaces, tables, benches and conveniently located refreshment stands are available. Other facilities include baseball diamonds and play fields.

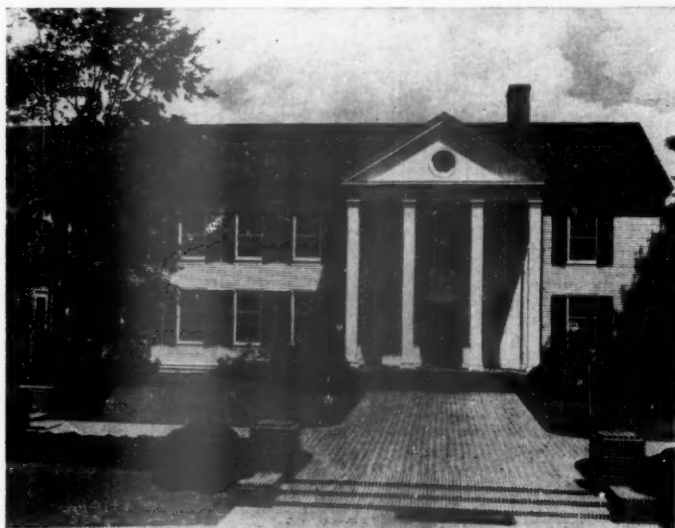
BELMONT LAKE STATE PARK, on the Southern State Parkway, north of the Village of

Babylon, is the administration headquarters of the Long Island State Park Commission. On the east side of the lake are large wooded picnic groves, a nature trail featuring the flora and fauna of Long Island, refreshment stands and boat dock where rowboats and canoes may be hired for use on the park lake.

CAPTREE STATE PARK on the Ocean Parkway at the southerly terminus of Captree State Parkway provides a large picnic area and complete fishing facilities including a bait station. Open fishing boats leave daily from the dock, charter boats by reservation, and fishing from the pier on Fire Island inlet near the picnic area are popular features of the park. A large refreshment stand is located on the north dock and free parking is provided for both fishermen and picnickers. The picnic area, located at the south side of the park, is fully equipped with a parking field, refreshment stand, picnic tables, charcoal grills, protected wading area and fishing pier. During the summer season, fast shuttle ferry service from Captree to Fire Island leaves on a frequent schedule.

FIRE ISLAND STATE PARK on the Atlantic Ocean at the westerly

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Park Commission Headquarters
Belmont Lake State Park, Babylon

Continued from page 82

was, indeed, a grave matter of concern for the town and United Colonies. At a meeting of the Commissioners of the United Colonies in July of that year, John Gosmer and Thomas Halsey made a declaration of 'the danger they were in and difficulties exposed unto upon the late murder in that town whereby they were necessitated to arm themselves and stand upon their defense many days.'

The author evidently was of the opinion that the original home of Thomas Halsey, in which this murder occurred in 1649 was not The Hollyhocks; that the latter was erected about 1660 by Halsey's son, Thomas Jr. Nevertheless, the building is without question the oldest in the village and worthy of preservation as such. Contributions should be sent to William K. Dunwell, Southampton.

Snowbound in 1888

Seventy years ago, on the 12th of March, 1888, we were a family of five — dad, mother, two boys and a girl — living on Bluepoint avenue, Blue Point. That day there was quite a problem to be solved in our household. Mother called a meeting to discuss it. Said she: "I have a meal to get and the cupboard is as bare as old Mother Hubbard's."

Sounds quite serious, does it not. But in our cellar as in most cellars in our village at that time, were bushels of potatoes, plenty of carrots, onions, cabbage, turnips, apples, salt pork from the family

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pig (a must in those days), and dozens of jars of canned fruits and vegetables (homemade). Also several bushels of oysters, as most local men were baymen and always laid in a supply for the winter.

How to get into the cellar was our problem. The on'y entrance was outside, and its slanting doorway was buried under about ten feet of snow — for this was during the famous Blizzard of '88. So dad decided that the easiest way to the cellar would be to take up our wall-to-wall carpet and cut a hole through the floor; then lower someone down with a rope under the arms. I being the smallest (an eleven-year older), was elected to the job. A water-pail with a rope attached served as the dumbwaiter.

Needless to say, we dined well on that eventful day and for several snowbound days thereafter.

R. S. Abrams, Blue Point.

My daughter and I both enjoy the Forum and welcome each copy when it comes. (Mrs.) Flora S. Leslie, Cutchogue.

L. I. FORUM INDEX

The Queens Borough Public Library, 89-14 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, sells a complete index of the Long Island Forum for the years 1938-1947 inclusive, at \$1 postpaid. Also for the years 1948-1952 inclusive, at 50 cents postpaid. They were compiled by Miss Marguerite V. Doggett, Librarian L. I. Collection, and may be obtained by addressing her at the Library.

Visitors Welcome

The General Museum-Library of the Suffolk County Historical Society, at Riverhead, is open daily (except Sundays and Holidays) from one to five P. M.

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Earth's Hidden Treasures

HIDDEN treasure is not always pirates' gold. It's more often pages of history - - ancient, like the discoveries at Stony Brook last summer, or incidents that happened not so long ago. My story belongs in the latter class.

Frost does strange things in some instances. Every spring more arrowheads came up in a certain lot - - some the finished work of the Setauket Indians, and others much more roughly made, belonging to an earlier culture. Father told me once that his mother said that, as a tiny boy, he had once owned a small silver fork with his initials, which had mysteriously disappeared. Some years after that, in the Manor garden, which had been ploughed every season for many years, the plow turned up father's silver fork. Evidently the small Selah had been doing some gardening on his own account.

Last summer, young Wiebelt was digging a garden near his home in East Setauket. He struck a stone slab so big he had trouble getting it out. It proved to be a piece of a gravestone with a few words of the inscription appearing here and there. When this was published in the local paper, I could not only fill in the rest of the inscription but account for its being where he found it.

When Selah Strong and his wife Abigail Terry bought land in East Setauket in 1704, and built the old part of the house which later became Roe Tavern, they laid out a burying ground three rods square in back of the house, as was often the custom.

It was evidently intended as a family burying ground as his son, Thomas, who lived at Mount Misery (now Belle Terre), was buried there, and his wife also. There was only a slaves' burying ground at Mount Misery. Shortly before his mother's death (his father had died some years before), Thomas sold the house and land to the Woodhulls, being very careful to reserve the burying ground to the family. The Woodhulls did the same when they sold to Austin Roe. These deeds were left to

Kate W. Strong

the Woodhulls for safe keeping.

Years passed. These facts had long been forgotten, when, in 1883, the owners of the land tore down the fence and plowed up the graveyard. Five stones were rescued unbroken and were moved to the Smith-Strong burying ground on Strongs Neck. I'd always wondered how many more were buried there, as Selah and Thomas each had ten children.

Now I can place one more, as the one found by young Wiebelt was the stone of Abigail Strong, daughter of Selah and Abigail Terry Strong, who married one of the Carlls of Huntington, and died in February, 1736. It is said one of the stones from this graveyard is used in a printing office on the south side of the Island, and door stones in some of the houses in East Setauket would show inscriptions if they were turned over.

Speaking of inscriptions, there's a story that I read many years ago. It happened in a small village. I do not know the location, but these were all New York State stories (including Long Island). In that

village, there lived a widower who tired of his own cooking and was looking for a second wife. In the same village lived a widow, a fine cook and known especially for her bread. He invited her to spend the day - - object matrimony, which, as he was well off for those days, might have seemed attractive.

Before she came, he started to clean the oven which was in an awful mess. Burnt food stuck so to it, he thought he must have a new stone for the bottom. What better stone could he find than his wife's tombstone in the backyard? She really didn't need it.

The widow came, but when she drew out the fragrant loaves of bread, on the bottom of them in raised letters was the lament of a griefstricken husband for his beloved wife. The story went the rounds, and I fear he did his own cooking for the rest of his days. Such results can come to a man from a bit of carelessness.

Still enjoying your publication each month. It is a pleasure to renew again for the coming year. Charles Vanderveer III, Hempstead.



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As to Old Steamboats

Congratulations to Mr. LeRoy Wilcox in particular and you in general on "Steamer Shinnecock and Others" in the March issue of the Forum.

Please find enclosed a picture which I took of her around 1904. Too bad 'taint big enough to reproduce.

As you know, because of my advanced years, I am feeble in body, feebler in mind and feeblest in morals, but, be all this as it may, I hereby state without any reservations whatsoever that your Steamer was part of the life of Greenporters.

An example:—Harold Cunningham who played halfback on the football team and pitched on the baseball team of Greenport High School in 1902-03, (Riverhead should remember this), started his seagoing career as a quartermaster on Shinnecock. He wound up as Captain of the Leviathan.

It is too bad that God has seen fit to take him from us for what an article Harold could write about your Boat.

Hilary Corwin, Huntington.

Note: Counselor at Law Corwin still retains his well known good humor.

He Knew the Shinnecock

The article and picture of the Steamer Shinnecock (by LeRoy Wilcox) in the March Forum interested me greatly. During the summer of 1896 when I was ten years old my family lived in a cottage on Shelter Island, opposite Greenport, and I saw the Shinnecock in all the glory of her youth, many times. She was then the pride of the harbor and while at that age I knew very little of schedules, I do remember that she was considered the "crack" ship on her run.

I also saw the Wyandotte a great number of times, both at Greenport and in New York's East River. She had a distinctive tall stack, painted buff with a black top band. In your March cover picture the ship forward of the Shinnecock looks suspiciously like the Wyandotte, but I cannot be sure.

Having as a boy spent many summers on Long Island (East Quogue, Good Ground (now Hampton Bays), Shelter Island, Quogue and Brentwood, I am always most interested in your excellent publication.

John W. Brewer, Quaker Hill, *cawling*, N. Y.

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Desk of 1773

On the day that Bostonians were having their famous "tea party", in Boston harbor, December 16, 1773, a farmer of Sound Avenue, Riverhead Town, was doing what for him was a very important thing. On that day Nathan Benjamin left his farmhouse, just west of what is now Osborn avenue, and journeyed to Sag Harbor.

He probably went horseback as that was the surest way to travel over boggy roads. The purpose of his journey was to order a desk. He wanted a good one and he knew that Jonas Squam, a Sag Harbor cabinetmaker, made very good desks.

Farmer Benjamin ordered one of "bay mahogany". It was the type of desk that we now call a secretary, and was put together with wooden pegs. The cost was to be five English pounds nine shillings — a goodly sum in those colonial days, not easily come by. So Mr. Benjamin bargained to pay part of the cost in produce — one firkin of winter butter and 11 pounds of linen yarn.

The desk was duly made and set up in the Benjamin home. It not only proved useful, but was a thing of beauty.

Then came the Revolution. British foraging parties made raids on Long Island. Nathan Benjamin was not going to allow them to get his desk, so he took out the wooden pegs and transported the desk in sections across the sound to Connecticut.

Mr. Benjamin was an exceedingly tall and well built man; it is said that he scared off a raiding party of British when they were attacking his hay and rye, by charging at them out of the woods. This is reported in Mather's "Refugees of 1776".

After the war, the desk came back to Long Island, and Nathan Benjamin paid six shillings eight pence to have it put together again.

It is still a very beautiful desk which I recently saw at the home of Otto De Friest, a direct descendant of Nathan Benjamin. It was Mrs. De Friest who gave me this story.

Lillian Hallock, Riverhead.

We enjoy the interesting material in the Forum, and we lend it to others who also look forward to each copy. Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Mills, Patchogue.

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Big Business in Eels

Just seventy years ago two small East Marion boys, nine years of age (Gene Tuthill and Gene Griffing), formed a partnership to trap eels, for the local fish markets.

We found three old discarded eel pots, which we repaired.

B. C. Tuthill's Grocery Store furnished us with a wooden box. Mr. Tuthill usually sold these boxes for five cents each; since neither of the partners could dig up a nickel, he gladly gave us one.

The top or cover was hinged on with old leather, small holes were bored on the sides and bottom. This was known as a "fish car". All the necessary tools needed to get the gear in shape were borrowed from the neighbors.

Stones were put in the bottom, so that it would be full of water at all times. The car was then moored by a rope, tied to a large stone.

Horseshoe crabs were used for bait, eels being very fond of the yellowish eggs, about the size of the shadroe egg.

We procured an old leaky boat and set the eelpots in Dam pond, a large salt water pond, having an outlet to the bay, but not into the Long Island Sound.

The next morning we found the pots well filled with eels. The car was nearly filled, so we built another one much larger.

I was left in charge of the business, as my partner was expected to pay his cousin, Eldridge Seaman, a visit. Eldridge's father was an engineer on the Long Island Railroad for many years. They made Greenport their home town.

In the meantime the eels were running very good. The car was filled to the top until not another one could be crammed in.

Upon my partner's return we de-



cided to sell our catch to the Cook Fish Market of Greenport.

When the car cover was opened, we found the eels had all died; for the lack of circulating water. The news spread around the village very rapidly. When Gene Tuthill was questioned as to just what happened to the eels his one reply to everyone was "Gene Griffing died-ed em all."

Summer vacation over, the two capitalists trudged back to school.

Some of our playmates sympathized with us; others ridiculed us for poor management. How right they were!

Capt. Eugene S. Griffing
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Note: Subsequently Captain Griffing demonstrated a more mature business sense as a successful contractor and banker, before well earned retirement.

Corrections and Additions

We are greatly indebted to Osborn Shaw, Brookhaven Town His-

torian, for having sent the following corrections and additions to our article "Colonial Long Island" in the March Forum:

The patent covering the site of Patchogue and environs was granted to Major John Winthrop, son of Connecticut Governor John Winthrop.

Of the twelve original counties erected in 1683, Cornwall was in what has since become the State of Maine and Duke's is in present Massachusetts.

The manorial patent to William Nicoll was issued in 1683. Islip was patented as a precinct in 1710 and not as a town until 1788.

The manorhouse of Col. William Tangier Smith stood on Strong's Neck, Setauket; not at Mastic. The Smith homestead at Mastic, now a museum (not town-owned), was not built until a century or more after Col. Smith's death.

Benj. G. Huskisson

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Legend of the Two Brothers

IF ever there was an ideal spot for the burying of treasure, it was the lonesome stretches of Fire Island, and it is difficult to imagine that it was not taken advantage of. Here was a perfect beach for landing a small boat from a ship lying off-shore, when the weather was good. It was a walk of but a hundred feet from the beach to a perfect maze of sand-dunes, stunted trees and heavy underbrush; and best of all it was uninhabited. Mainlanders avoided the wild and desolate strip as they would the plague; because of the rumors that it was haunted, that strange and unearthly screams had been heard by boats passing after dark, and that more than one man had gone to the island and never was heard from again. There was no water on Fire Island, no deer, and even the Indians shunned it or departed

Douglas Tuomey

before sun-down. It is doubtful if there were two men living along the south shore of Long Island, who could boast of having spent a night there alone.

One of the more probable, or plausible legends we have come across, deals with the startling experience of two half-grown boys on a calm and sunny afternoon sometime in the late Fall about the year 1800.

It appears that on this day, the boys had accompanied their father on a net-fishing trip along the bay side of Fire Island. During the late morning the net had become snagged in a submerged stump and badly torn, so the man beached his boat in order to spread the net and make the necessary repairs. After some considerable argument,

because the man had the usual dislike for the island's unsavory reputation, he consented to the boys leaving the boat to wander among the dunes in search of berries or a few of the exotic blossoms which grew in the hollows. It was expressly understood that they not go beyond hailing distance, but in boy-like disregard for instructions, they soon made their way to the last of the dunes stretching along the beach, and within sound of the gently breaking surf.

As they crawled up through the gap between two of the dunes and in view of the beach, they both threw themselves flat on the sand in consternation. Close inshore, a large ship showing a line of gun-ports in her bulwarks, lay rolling lazily in the smooth swells. Worse yet, a yawl was drawn up on the beach, and four men with arms

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folded, were leaning against the thwarts. A fifth man, his arms bound behind him and his mouth gagged, lay on the sand close to the boat's bow.

Hardly daring to breathe, the boys slithered under a dense clump of bayberry and lay still, their young hearts pounding with terror. Suddenly the older boy grasped his brother's arm and pointed through the branches and upward. There, on top of a high dune no more than fifty feet away squatted a man, spy-glass to eye and slowly sweeping the horizon. He was burnt black from sun and weather, naked from the waist up save for a leather bandolier slung over one shoulder, heavily bearded, and with his long, greasy-looking hair bound around his forehead with a strip of cloth.

Even as the boys watched, the man stood erect and raising his arms gave the ageless semaphore signal of "all clear". Sliding down the steep side of the dune the man broke into a trot and rejoined his companions. After a short exchange of words and some pointing to several different points along the dune barrier, the men proceeded to hoist a squarish leather trunk out of the boat, and lifting the bound man to his feet headed for the dunes. Fortunately for the youngsters, they cut through a gap some hundred feet east of where the boys lay hidden.

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Producer Guy Lombardo signs the 1958 contract to produce "Song of Norway" at the Jones Beach Marine Theatre. Park Commissioner Robert Moses and associate producers Carmen and Lebert Lombardo look on.

For quite a while they could be heard talking, and then the soft, sifting sound of digging, then the sound the boys feared, the dull thud of a cutlass on human flesh, over and over until the horrified boys stuck their fingers in their ears and buried their wet faces in the warm sand.

In perhaps a half-hour the party reappeared, but this time only five of them. Without a word between them, and very slowly, they shoved off their boat and rowed to the ship. After she had veered away, and not before, the boys gained sufficient courage to crawl around the dunes so that they could see the hollow from whence had come the sounds. It was completely bare, and save for the marks of a rough smoothing and the tracks of the men, there was no trace of anything.

Without further ado, and with the pent-up horror of what they had gone through nipping at their heels, the lads raced through the brush to the bay, and passing their father who was dragging the mended net to his boat, they tumbled aboard her, tears running down their young faces and white with terror. They could only cry "Please father; please. Back there, back there; for your life get away".

Seeing that something had thrown the children into actual hysteria the father threw his net aboard, and heaving at the bow he lunged her afloat and jumped onto the head. Grasping an oar

he poled frantically away from the shore, watching over his shoulder, as by now the genuine panic of the shivering youngsters had communicated itself to him.

Not until the water deepened and the small sail had been set, did the man ask what had happened. As the older boy told of what they had heard and seen his father paled, and well he might: for had he not been intent upon his mending or had he shouted to the boys, he would be as dead as the bound man, who had been slain and his corpse spread over the buried trunk in true buccaneer fashion, to curse any intruder.

Upon reaching home, the youngsters repeated their story over and over again. Neighbors came to hear, and departed shaking their heads in disbelief or nodding as though not surprised. Gradually the tale spread for miles around, and adventurous souls tried to organize a party, and with the boys to guide them, endeavor to unearth the trunk, but nothing could induce the boys or their family to assist.

As with most such things, interest slowly dwindled, but the memory of that afternoon was engraved on the minds of both boys, who told it to their sons and grandsons; and so, down to us.

I should not like to miss a single issue. Mrs. Walter W. Voelbel, Sea Cliff.

Side-Wheels, Propellers, Etc.

I note that LeRoy Wilcox in his fine story Steamboat Shinnecock and Others (March Forum), describes the Shinnecock as a side-wheeler, which she was not when I knew her. And I doubt that she had been built as a side-wheeler and then changed to propeller, as that would have been a very costly job, requiring a different type of engine and putting in a stern bearing.

I know something about propellers and stern bearings because I have helped to pull off propellers in the Greenport shipyard. Two prints of mine (1926 and 1928) show the Shinnecock as a propeller-driven vessel. Also, when the Shinnecock was built they had about ceased to produce side-wheelers. Even the LIRR's last two ferryboats of some years ago, the Babylon and the Hempstead, were propeller-driven.

The cover picture of the March Forum intrigues me as the small steamer ahead of the Shinnecock has a familiar look. Her size in proportion to the larger steamer convinces me that she is the Pemaquid that sailed to Block Island for many years from New London and on which I sailed to that island in the summer of 1937. Later that same year, while working in a L. I. City plant I saw a steamer one early evening coming towards New York. Training a glass on her, I read the name Pemaquid on her pilothouse. In my scrapbook is an item of 1956 telling of her striking the rocks of Little Gull Island during a fog. The Coast Guard removed her passengers.

LeRoy Wilcox seems to have done a good job of research for his article on the old steamboats that once plied Long Island waters, most of which during my time I have seen. Your own article on the colonial governors, of which I have a complete list, was very good.

I am sorry to have to correct my friend Mrs. Edna B. Ketcham for

her statement in the same issue that our's is the only Babylon in the U. S. There is another in Fulton County, Illinois, as shown on page 230 of the big Hammond Atlas and listed on page 231 as a small unincorporated village.

John Tooker, Babylon.

"Montauk" on Great Lakes

In the summer of 1952 I took the Great Lakes Cruise from Buffalo to Duluth and there saw a vessel named Montauk. It had the familiar appearance of boats that operated between N. Y. City and Block Island, stopping at Sag Harbor and other east end points.

Having read LeRoy Wilcox's article on Steamboat Shinnecock and Others, in the March Forum, I am wondering if this vessel at Duluth was the old Montauk of the Montauk Steamboat Co. Perhaps Mr. Wilcox can supply an answer.

He stated that the Montauk was sold in 1902 "to Canadian parties for service on Lake Erie and renamed the King Edward." It is possible that it was resold for Duluth service and the old name restored.

Meade C. Dobson, Kew Gardens.

Note: As organizer and long time managing director of The Long Island Association, Mr. Dobson has stored up a fund of Long Island lore.

That Steamboat Shinnecock

I was much interested in the article by LeRoy Wilcox in the March Forum about the steamer Shinnecock. I have traveled on her twice -- once from New York to Sag Harbor and later from Sag Harbor to New York overnight.

I have a brochure issued by the

Montauk Steamboat Company, dated 1897, with pictures of the ship and her summer timetable. My father must have traveled on her and brought home this brochure. I remember I left New York on a Saturday at 1 p.m. and arrived at Sag Harbor at 10 p.m. Some years later I left Sag Harbor at 5 p.m. and arrived in New York at 7 a.m. In 1897 her staterooms were \$1 and \$2.

Frederic J. Wood, Babylon.

Note: Judge Wood's father, Sheriff Benjamin B. Wood, probably used the old Shinnecock time and again.

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Shinnecock a Side-wheeler

LeRoy Wilcox, author of "Steamboat Shinnecock and Others" (March Forum), sends us the following letter, received by him:

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

We are glad to learn that the Shinnecock article has appeared in the Long Island Forum.

The Shinnecock was built as a side wheeler and remained as such throughout her entire career. We could supply a photo of her as the Town of Hull showing that she was still a side wheeler in the 1930's.

The Montauk was dismantled in 1942 and her hull sold to a construction company. This hull was still in existence as late as 1945. By 1952 she was not listed in any of the ship registers, but it is entirely possible that your correspondent saw her as a barge at Duluth in 1952. She last operated in 1940 under the name Montauk on the Great Lakes.

John L. Lochhead, Librarian,
The Mariners Museum,
Warwick, Virginia

Continued from page 87

end of Fire Island has modern bathhouse, boat basins, playground, picnic area, refreshment stand and walks, and is accessible by private boat or by passenger ferry from the south end of the Captree Causeway at Captree State Park. Throughout the summer season, after a delightful sail across the Inlet, Fire Island offers the finest of surfbathing facilities on its spotless ocean beach. Historic Fire Island lighthouse is located in this park.

HITHER HILLS STATE PARK about eight miles west of Montauk Point, contains 1,755 acres of woodlands, high sand dunes and ocean beach. A popular oceanfront camping area is located in this park. Camping permits for periods of two weeks or less may be obtained from the park superintendent or



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camp supervisor. A bathhouse, general store, refreshment stand and picnic area are available. A scenic parkway connects this park with Montauk Point State Park on the easterly tip of Long Island.

WILDWOOD STATE PARK situated on the north shore with high bluffs overlooking Long Island Sound, is one of the most attractive natural parks on Long Island. There are fine woodland campsites available in this park and a bathhouse, with excellent bathing in the Sound. Camping permits for stays up to three weeks may

be obtained from the park superintendent or camp supervisor at the entrance to the camping area. For the comfort and safety of campers, no dogs are permitted in the camping areas. Picnic areas with a scenic view of Long Island Sound are equipped with tables and fireplaces.

ORIENT BEACH STATE PARK on the northerly fluke of eastern Long Island, 118 miles from New York City, provides surf bathing in the waters of Gardiners Bay and picnicking facilities. This park, which was donated to the State

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MONTAUK POINT STATE PARK occupies the most easterly tip of Long Island, 132 miles from New York City. Famous for its unique scenic attraction, this park contains the United States Government's Montauk Light house built in 1795, a modern refreshment stand, and parking fields.

Surf fishing is a popular activity at this park. Thousands of fishermen visit the park each fall for striped bass fishing, near the light-house.

Long Island First

The earliest cathedral village in the United States was Garden City, according to its most recent Year Book, issued by the Village Board. The cathedral was consecrated in 1885 by Bishop Littlejohn before the village itself was fully established.

Of L'Hommedieu Family

For three years a most cherished gift from a friend has been the Forum. I am of the L'Hommedieu family and would like correspondence with other members of the family. Mrs. Florence E. Gesser, 1317 Bellevue Ave., Syracuse, N. Y.

Congratulations on the Forum's 20th birthday. Each issue is intensely interesting and my copies are passed on, read and reread *** Best wishes for your success for the next twenty years. Edith F. Terry, Patchogue.



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Flappers Come Back to the Plaza

There was a bevy of flappers at the Plaza Hotel last week, wearing the very same dresses every woman wore in the 1920's, the knee-high chemises, beaded, fringed and glittering by night, and just as short and waistless but quite subdued by day. Authentic dresses of 30 years ago were modeled in a fashion show presented by the Traphagen School of Fashion of 1680 Broadway (52nd St.), New York, for members of the Southern Society, for the benefit of that organization's relief fund.

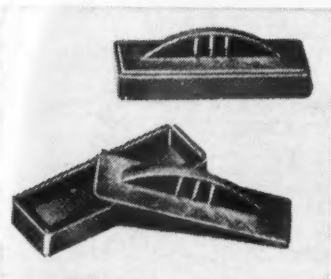
The audience also had a chance to see what a different style their ancestors were wearing a hundred years ago, when a group of girls in beautiful, hoop-skirted gowns walked out of the past following a parade of fashions worn by Southern Belles in all the centuries since the founding of Jamestown in 1607. All the gowns were from the Traphagen School's Museum Collection of more than a thousand costumes.

The fashions of today that took over the final section of the showing looked very much indeed

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The Chemises of the 1920's

like descendants of the old styles. Included were both chemises and fitted fashions, waistlines normal, high and low, bouffant and slender skirts, of this controversial, wear-what-you-will year, 1958. The modern clothes were all designed and made by pupils at Traphagen School, and the attractive young student-designers modeled the costumes, old and new.

Suffolk Museum, Stony Brook

The Suffolk Museum at Stony Brook reopened for the season on March 15. The hours are 10 to 5:30 Wednesdays through Sundays. There are many new features, including a life-size L. I. Indian

group with authentic thatched dwelling, utensils, tools, etc.

Museum Director Margaret V. Wall announces that the Carriage House will reopen Saturday, May 3.

Spreading L. I. History

Thank you very much for the information you sent me on Long Island. It has really helped me a great deal. I am enlarging on what you gave me as well as adding some information I have looked up. When I am done I think I will have quite a term paper. Thank you again for all your help.

Virginia Sue Harrison, Birmingham, Mich.

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In Days of Old

Mr. George E. Hart, retired horticulturist of Wading River, sent us a small photo showing him in 1897 "as a poor young countryman" husking corn (for the husks) on the farm estate of S. M. Cornell at Grassy Pond, a mile north of Pearsall's Corners (now Lynbrook). Mr. Cornell owned two large floating grain elevators in New York Harbor. Writes Mr. Hart, in part:

"I planted corn (heel and toe fashion), hills four by four feet apart, at \$1.25 per ten-hour day, and later hoed at the same rate. For cutting corn and stacking 64 hills to a stack, I received five cents per stack.

"For husking, I received the husks which I bagged and sold to a peddler who drove a light one-horse wagon and took the load to New York's East Side where they were sold for stuffing mattresses. The peddler paid from three to five cents a bag which we sometimes augmented by hiding a small field pumpkin or a citron inside to make weight. This big business was followed by cutting oak and hickory cordwood at \$1.25 a cord."

Semantics, of Course

I am sure the letter of Vernon E. Benjamin of Arlington, Va., in the March Forum, meant "seman-tics"; not "semitics". (Mrs.) Grace E. Aldrich, Jamaica.

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